

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



July 18, 2012

John Moorlach, Chairman
Orange County Board of Supervisors
333 West Santa Ana Boulevard
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Re: Participation of Orange County in the Independent Peer Review Group (IPRG)

Dear Mr. Moorlach:

I am writing this letter to invite Orange County to join the IPRG in reviewing and commenting on the seismic and tsunami plans and studies to be done for San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS). This activity is currently getting started, as SCE recently submitted its initial seismic study plans on July 9, 2012. SCE proposes to perform 2-D and possibly 3-D onshore and offshore seismic surveys in the vicinity of SONGS. These surveys are scheduled to be completed by the end of 2013.

To give you some background, in 2006, the California Legislature enacted Assembly Bill (AB) 1632, which was codified as Public Resources Code Section 25303. AB 1632 directed the California Energy Commission (CEC) to assess the potential vulnerability of California's largest baseload power plants, which includes SONGS power plant, to a major disruption due to a major seismic event and other issues. In November 2008, the CEC issued its findings and recommendations, which was part of its 2008 Integrated Energy Policy Report Update.

In response to the CEC's AB 1632 report, Southern California Edison Company (SCE) submitted Application 11-04-006 with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) seeking \$64 million to continue and enhance its seismic safety research projects in conformity with the recommendations of the CEC. CPUC Decision (D).12-05-004 dated May 10, 2012 approved SCE's request.

D.12-05-004 created an Independent Peer Review Group (IPRG) to oversee and review the SONGS seismic and tsunami studies. This group is similar to the Independent Peer Review Panel that was formed to review the seismic studies being performed by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) for that utility's Diablo Canyon Power Plant (DCPP). Under the auspices of the CPUC, the panel for DCPP and the peer review group for SONGS consist of technical expert participants from the CPUC, CEC, the California Geological Survey, the California Coastal Commission, the California Emergency Management Agency, and the California Seismic Safety Commission.

D.12-05-004 anticipates that Orange County will be added to the members participating in the IPRG for SONGS seismic and tsunami studies, just as the County of San Luis Obispo was added to the DCPD IPRP. The CPUC would welcome the participation of Orange County in the IPRG.

Please let us know if Orange County will participate in the IPRG for SONGS seismic study review. If you have any questions, please contact Eric Greene (eg1@cpuc.ca.gov; 415-703-5560) or Don Lafrenz (dlf@cpuc.ca.gov; 415-703-1063) of the Energy Division staff.

Sincerely,



Edward Randolph
Director, Energy Division
California Public Utilities Commission

cc: Michael Peevey
Catherine Sandoval
Mark Ferron
Michel Florio
Timothy Simon
Paul Clanon
Jonathan Changus, Office of Senator Blakeslee
Barry Steinhart, Office of Senator Leno
Service List A.10-01-014
Service List A.11-04-006